

Community Forestry Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Location: Parks & Recreation Administration Office, 3131 O Street, Third Floor

Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Members Present: Lachel Bradley-Williams, Jessica Gieseke, Erin Chambers, Mark Wilson, Kendall Weyers, Emma Craig
Members Absent:
Staff Members Present: Lynn Johnson, Lorri Grueber, Adam Klingenberg, Chris Myers, Kaylyn Nerverve, Denise Pearce
Members of the public present: Laurel Van Ham, Lorrie Benson

Agenda items

1. **Call to Order:** Lachel Bradley-Williams called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and recognized the Open Meetings Act posted on the wall.
2. **Roll Call:** Roll Call was taken. Quorum was present. Introduction of Emma Craig as a new Advisory Board member. There is one vacancy on the Board with resignation of Patty Nguyen.
3. **Minutes from the June 8, 2021 and July 13, 2021 special meeting approved.**
4. **Public Comments:** Laurel Van Ham and Lorri Benson shared information about the inter-faith community 2022 Faith the Forest initiative recognizing the celebrating the value of trees, particularly in light of changing climate, and promoting tree planting.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Events:** Lachel shared that the Events Committee has been meeting and discussing a community Arbor Day celebration and tree distribution in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day on Friday, April 22 from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm in Union Plaza.
 - b. **Policy:** Kendall shared that the Policy Committee is reviewing the Design Standards for Street Trees and discussed information about the Community Forestry Program on the Parks and Recreation Department website.
6. **Election of Officers for 2022:** Chairperson – Jessica Gieseke, Vice Chairperson – Erin Chambers.
7. **Staff Reports**
 - a. The Advisory Board discussed a memo provided by staff regarding a proposal to amend the Lincoln Municipal Code providing definitions for street trees and boundary trees, and suggested maintenance responsibilities for each category of trees. No action was taken by the advisory board.
 - b. Denise Pearce, Special Projects Administrator, provided an overview of a grant application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust to support planting and establishment of new street trees to replace ash street trees in low/moderate income neighborhoods.

- c.** Denise Pearce, Special Projects Administrator, provided an overview of a two-year pilot program with the Nebraska Forest Service to provide funds to low-moderate income property owners to remove dead or dying trees, including ash trees, and to plant replacement trees.
- d.** Kaylyn Nerverve shared the updated Approved Street Tree list with nativity notations. Kendall suggested consideration of adding Northern Pecan as an approved street tree.
- e.** Lorri Gruber shared the Quarterly Report regarding work by the Community Forestry Section for the first two quarters of FY 2021-22.
- f.** Lorri Gruber said the Community Forestry section continues to work through the backlog of work resulting from the six large storm events resulting in significant tree damage in 2020. She also noted that the long-term Community Forestry staff will be retiring on December 27, 2021.
- g.** Adam Klingenberg shared that the ash street tree removal continues in the Meadowlane neighborhood.
- h.** Kaylyn Nerverve shared a portion of the street trees in an arterial street tree planting project have been installed. The remaining trees are planned to be planted in the spring.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director.

Next Quarterly Board meeting will be on March 8, 2022.